



# NEWS RELEASE

## Rural Development

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### **POLLOCK AREA WATER SYSTEM CELEBRATES CONSTRUCTION OF \$2.7 MILLION EXPANSION PROJECT**

**New wells + New storage tanks = More Users!**

POLLOCK, January 7, 2004 — Community leaders gathered today in Pollock to celebrate expansion of Pollock's community water system. "We currently serve 850 customers," said Earl Durand, President of the Pollock Area Water System Board of Directors. "With the expansion, we will be able to add 74 new customers."

The addition of two new wells, two pumping plants, a 65,000-gallon ground storage tank, two 100,000-gallon elevated storage tanks, and associated equipment will ensure an adequate water supply for new and existing customers.

USDA Rural Development provided a \$1.2 million grant, as well as a \$1.5 million loan, to the Pollock Area Water System to fund these improvements. "Many water systems in rural areas of Louisiana are at capacity—meaning they are not able to add new customers," said Michael B. Taylor, State Director for USDA Rural Development. "USDA Rural Development offers affordable funding to communities for development, improvement, and expansion of rural water systems. This project in Grant Parish will improve the quality of life for residents and foster economic growth and development."

In addition to funding for municipal water systems, USDA Rural Development provides a full range of rural development credit services in rural Louisiana. The Louisiana Rural Development State Office is located at 3727 Government Street, Alexandria, Louisiana 71302, and the telephone number is (318) 473-7921. There are four area offices, located throughout the state to serve Louisiana residents. Further information on USDA Rural Development's loan and grant programs can be obtained by visiting Rural Development's web site at: <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov>.

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